



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Burges et al.

Application No.: 09/879,734

Group Art Unit: 2161

Filed: June 12, 2001

Examiner: Not assigned

Title: Electronic Deposit Box System

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments and remarks into the file of this application prior to examination thereof:

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Amendments to Figs. 1-6(b) in red ink are submitted herewith for the Examiner's review and approval. Copies of the all of the figures with Figs. 1-6(b) after amendment are also submitted herewith in the Submission of Formal Drawings.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as indicated in the attached Marked-Up Copy of Specification Sections with Amendments. In this attachment, material to be added is indicated by underlining. Also submitted herewith are substitute specification sections after the Amendments.

REMARKS

Figs. 1-5 have been amended to remove the text boxes framing the figures. The text in the lower boxes have been inserted in the specification as discussed below. Figs. 2-5 have also been amended to consistently use reference labels and numbers appearing in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 has been further amended to more clearly indicate the arrows showing "confirmation sent to


AA" as disclosed on original Fig. 3. Figs. 6(a) and 6(b) have been amended to abbreviate "certificate registration" thereon. The amendments to Figs. 1-6(b) are clearly supported by the originally filed drawings, so that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

The amendments to the specification sections on pages 6 and 7 place the text from Figs. 1-5 in the appropriate figure descriptions, so no new matter is being added.

No fee is believed to be due for this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted

Date: 9-12-01


Granetta M. Coleman (Reg. No. 39,638)
Attorney for Applicants

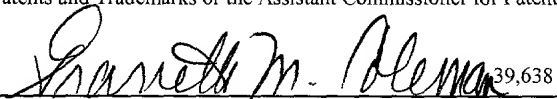
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GMC/rc
Enclosures

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in the envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks or the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 16, 2001.

Granetta M. Coleman
(Name)


(Signature)

39,638
(Reg No)

9-12-01
(Date of Signature)

Marked-Up Copy of Specification Sections with Amendments

Page 6, lines 27-30:

Figure 1 a schematic representation of an electronic security/tender box system according to an embodiment of the present invention providing a Secure Electronic Deposit/Tender Box (SEDB) for an Account Holder (user or buyer) and AA's Application for a Tender Box is validated by the Electronic Signature Certificate issued;

Page 7, lines 1-20:

Figure 2 a schematic representation of the electronic security /tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating uploading of ITT (Invitation To Tender) documentation onto a newly created SEDB by an Account Holder and Tender Box sends SSL email to Tenderers once ITT deposited;

Figure 3 a schematic representation of the electronic security/tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating that after a predetermined date/time selected Invited Participants (further users or selected tenderers/suppliers) are able to access the ITT documentation stored on the SEDB and Tenderers purchase E-certificate, access and receive ITT using certificate and email confirmation sent to AA;

Figure 4 a schematic representation of the electronic security/tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating that selected tenderers upload their responses to the ITT onto the SEDB (also known as Tenders return completed ITT), and emails are sent notifying the Account Holder of this (also known as confirmation emails);

Figure 5 a schematic representation of the electronic security/tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating that after a predetermined date/time access to the documentation uploaded by the Invited Participants is granted to the Account Holder and the Account Holder is then able to download the documentation, the Invited Participants being notified by email of this, AA extracts ITT's after the appointed time, and email confirming sent to tenders;

Clean Copy of Specification Replacement Sections After Amendments

Page 6, lines 27-30:

Figure 1 a schematic representation of an electronic security/tender box system according to an embodiment of the present invention providing a Secure Electronic Deposit/Tender Box (SEDB) for an Account Holder (user or buyer) and AA's Application for a Tender Box is validated by the Electronic Signature Certificate issued;

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Figure 4 a schematic representation of the electronic security/tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating that selected tenderers upload their responses to the ITT onto the SEDB (also known as Tenders return completed ITT), and emails are sent notifying the Account Holder of this (also know as confirmation emails);

Figure 5 a schematic representation of the electronic security/tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating that after a predetermined date/time access to the documentation uploaded by the Invited Participants is granted to the Account Holder and the Account Holder is then able to download the documentation, the Invited Participants being notified by email of this, AA extracts ITT's after the appointed time, and email confirming sent to tenders;

Vault Operation

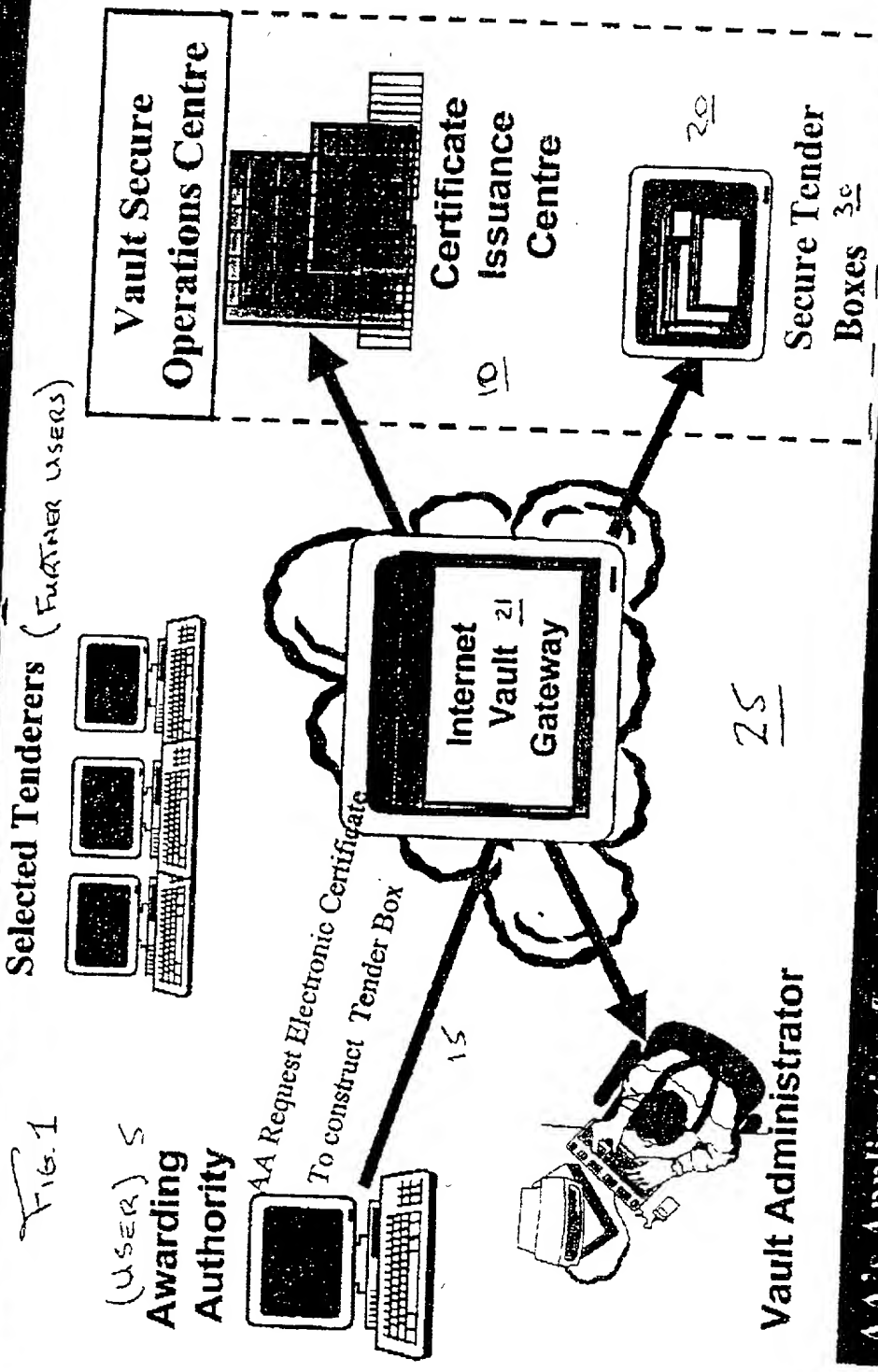
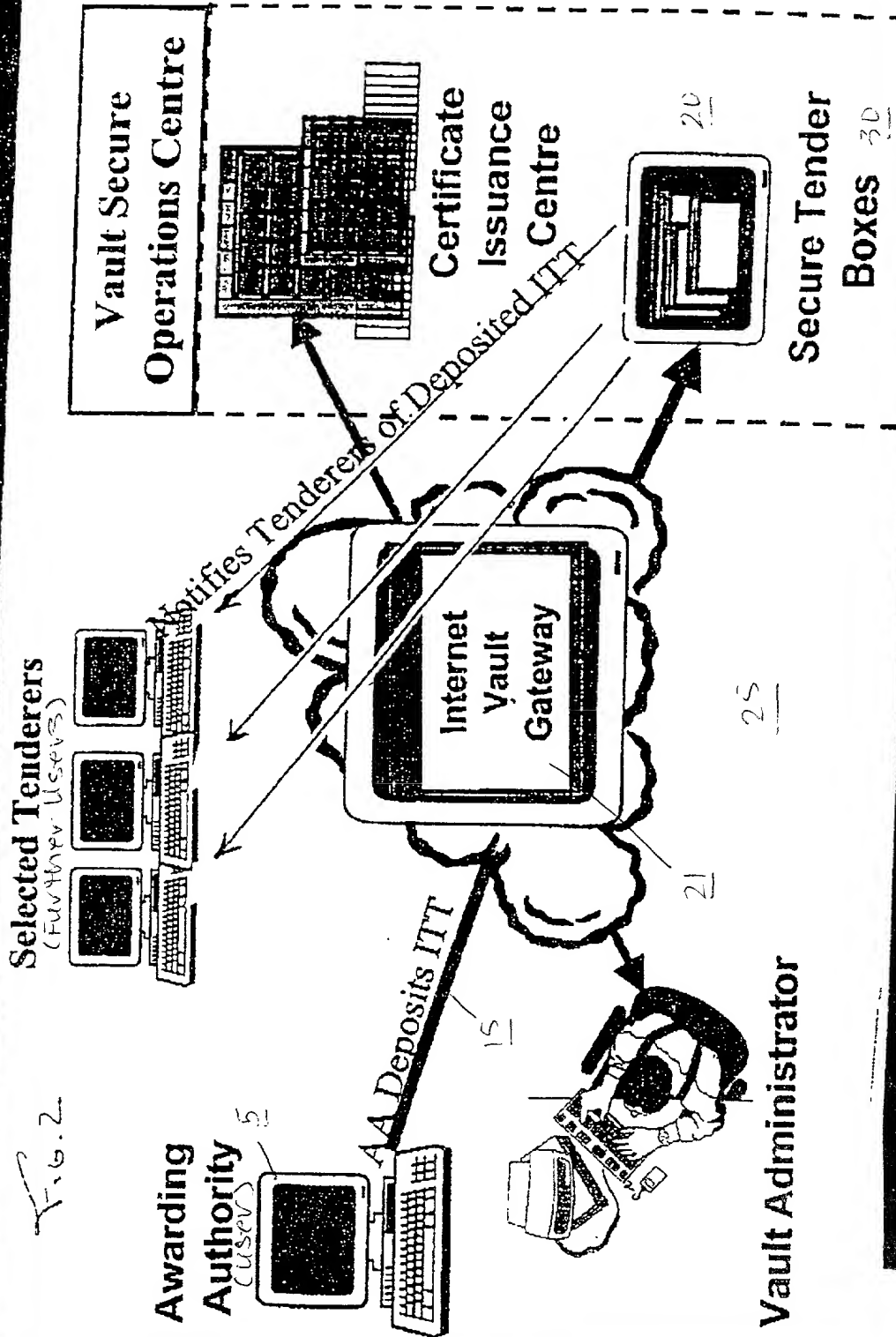


Fig. 1

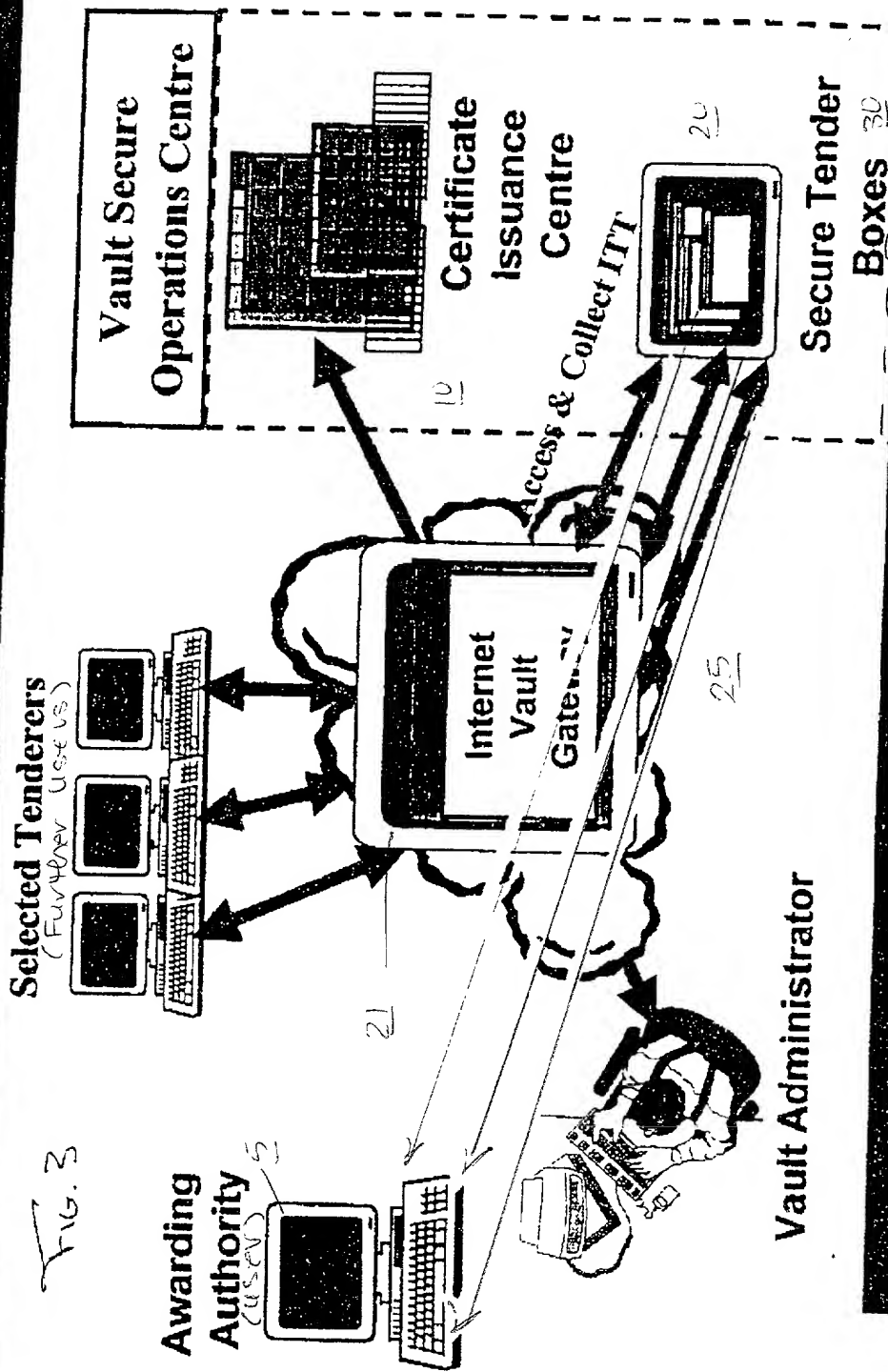
AA's Application for a Tender Box is validated by the Electronic Signature Certificate issued

Vault Operation



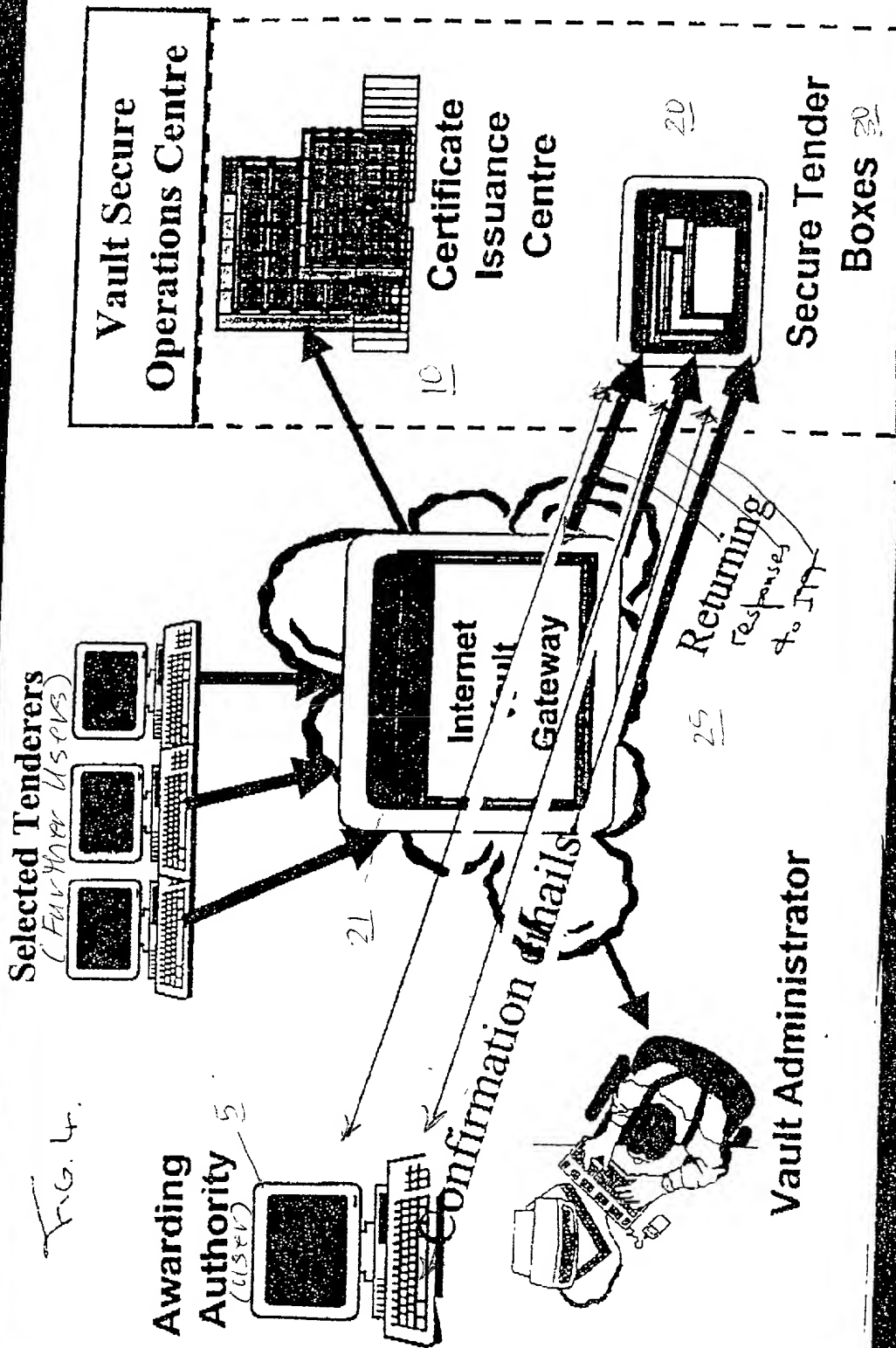
Tender Box Sends SSL Email to Tenderers once ITT Deposited

Vault Operation



Tenderers Purchase E-Certificate. Access & Receive
ITT using Certificate Email confirmation sent to AA.

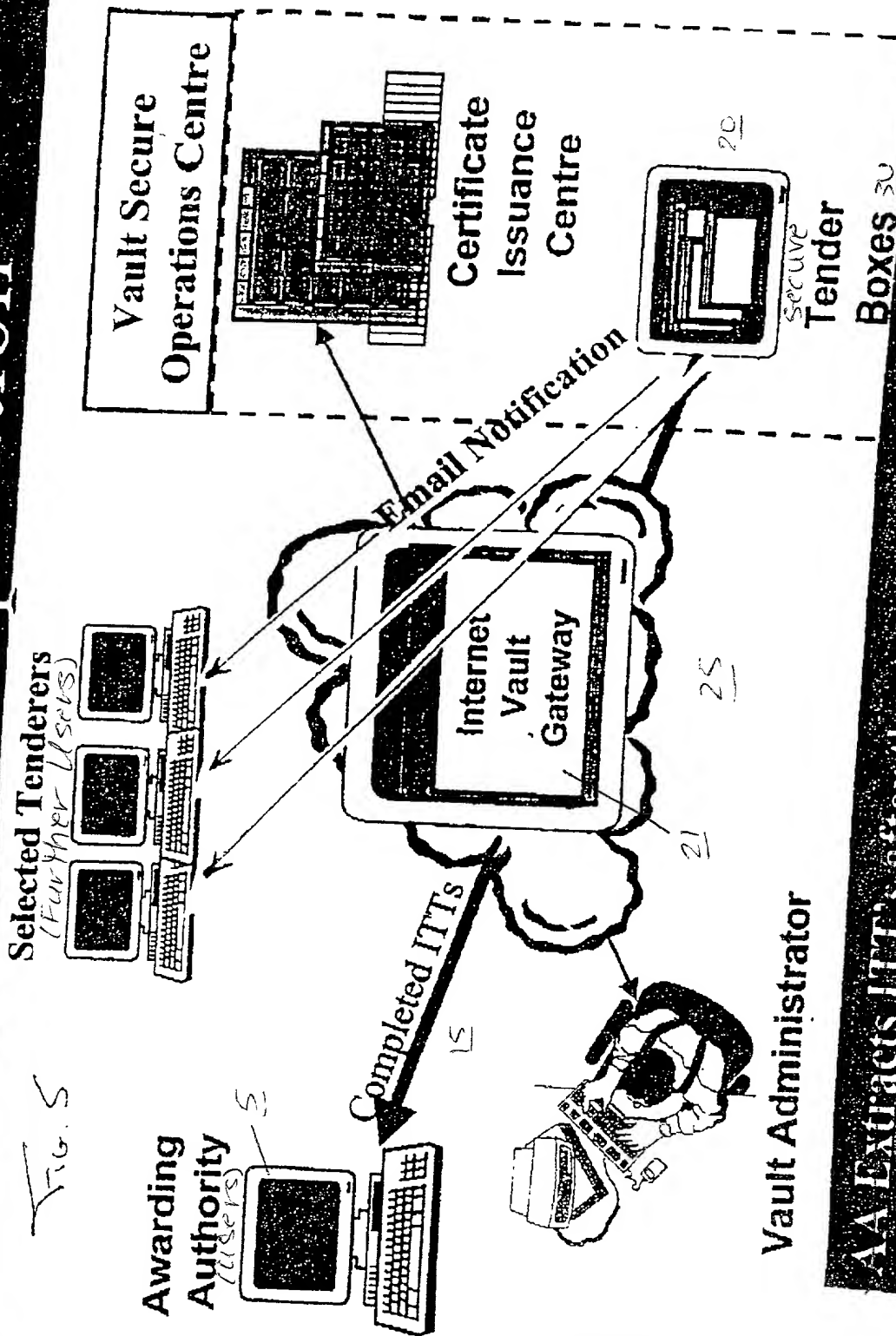
Vault Operation



Tenderers Return Completed ITT & Confirmation emails

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Vault Operation



AA Extracts ITT's after the Appointed Time.
Email confirming sent to tenderers

